

Diversion of water from Brahmaputra river

*121. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:††
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent newsreport indicating a Chinese plan to divert water from the Yarlung Zangbo (the Brahmaputra) river to the Yellow river in northwest China by constructing dam;

(b) the steps taken, if any, to verify the authenticity of the newsreport especially from Chinese authorities, besides our own sources;

(c) whether Government were seized of the experts' reports in the international media highlighting the comments made in August, 2006 by the Director, Yellow River Water Conservancy Committee, confirming China's plans to divert water from Yarlung Zangbo to the mainland; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has taken up this issue with the Chinese side. The Spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Ambassador in India have denied such plans.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The issues relating to trans-border rivers flowing from Tibet into India were discussed during the recent visit of the Chinese President to India. In the Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit, the two sides have agreed to set up an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, चीन, जो विश्व का सबसे ज्यादा जनसंख्या वाला देश है, वहां आज बहुत बड़ा मुद्दा पानी का और खाद्य पदार्थ का उठा हुआ है। वहां एक पेपर डिस्कस हो रहा है, "the great issue in China" जो वहां की आज की हुकूमत के सामने एक

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri. S.S. Ahluwalia.

बहुत बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। महोदय, यारलुंग जैंगबो नदी जो तिब्बत से बहती है, वह करीब 2057 किलोमीटर तिब्बत के इलाके में बहकर भारत में ब्रह्मपुत्र के नाम से जानी जाती है। महोदय, तिब्बत में जितनी नदियां बहती हैं, उन में से 90 फीसदी नदियां चीन, भारत, बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, पाकिस्तान, थाईलैंड, म्यानमार, लाओस, कंबोडिया और वियतनाम को, जाती हैं, उन में सब से बड़ी नदी हमारी ब्रह्मपुत्र है।

महोदय मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि क्या वह यह जानते हैं कि CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) जो Communist Party of China एक प्रमुख संगठन है, उस में Draft outline of Tenth Five Year Plan for national, economic and social development, 2001 और 2005 पेश किया गया था और कहा गया था कि पानी के तीन चैनल्स बनाने हैं — एक ईस्टर्न साइड से, दूसरा सेंट्रल साइड से और तीसरा वेस्टर्न रीजन से, जो इन के सहारा इलाके अर्थात् इनके रेगिस्तानी इलाकों में पानी ले जाने के लिए है। इस बारे में बहुत चर्चा हुई और यह पूरा प्रोजेक्ट तैयार पड़ा है। इस में भारत से इन्होंने Great western route water division project का आइडिया जो conceive किया है, उस से वे करीब 20 हजार करोड़ क्यूबिक मीटर पानी जैंगबो से डाइवर्ट कर के येलो रिवर में ले जाना चाहते हैं जोकि नॉर्थ — वैस्ट चाइना में है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या मंत्री महोदय ने अपने मंत्रियों से बात करने से पहले इस बारे में पूरी रिपोर्ट मंगाई थी? अगर मंगाई थी तो उस में Great western route water division project की क्या — क्या recommendation थी जिन्हें चाइना implement करने जा रहा है ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, from time to time, these facts or reports are appearing and sometimes, even the Chinese people and certain study groups who are also making these types of studies and assessments are in our knowledge. In one such report, it was suggested •» that there was a proposal to build a dam, a big hydro power project and diversion of 200 billion cubic metres of water to be flown to the Yellow River. But, when this issue was taken up with the Chinese Government they have indicated—both the Foreign Office Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and the Chinese Ambassador here—that there was no such proposal under their consideration.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : महोदय, मेरे पास उस recommendation के कुछ हिस्से हैं जहां यारलुंग जैंगबो नदी घूमकर ब्रह्मपुत्र बनती है, वह u — band के नाम से जाना जाता है। वहां पर 40 हजार मेगावाट का एक हाइड्रो — इलेक्ट्रिक पावर प्लांट बनाने के लिए उन्होंने जमीन acquire की है। उस जमीन को acquire कर के उस का जो infrastructure बनाना है, उस के लिए एक

छोटा सा न्यूक्लियर टेस्ट कर के वे एक गड्ढा बनाना चाहते हैं जहां कि पानी जमा किया जा सके। महोदय, हमने पिछले दिनों देखा था कि अरुणाचल प्रदेश में बाढ़ आई थी और उस का कारण हमारे विशेषज्ञ और वैज्ञानिक लोग नहीं बता सके थे, पर अंततः यह पता चला कि वह पानी चाइना से छोड़ा गया था जिस के कारण बाढ़ आई थी। उस समय कहा गया था कि वहां लैंड — स्लाइड हुए हैं, पर मेरा ऐसा मानना है और जो रिपोर्ट साइंटिफिक अमेरिकन मैगजीन में छपी है, वह बताती है कि यह बहुत ही खतरनाक स्थिति है, अब जिस के बारे में वे कह रहे हैं कि नहीं बना रहे हैं, वे नहीं कहते हैं और वही करते हैं। इसलिए अगर इस की सैटलाइट से information लें जैसा कि पिछले दिनों सतलुज के ऊपर तिब्बत में एक बहुत बड़ी लेक को “लेक बम्ब” के रूप में यूज करने के लिए, “इसरो” ने उस का सैटलाइट से पिक्चर लेकर, भारत को बताया था, वैसे ही सैटलाइट से इस को भी वाच कर के अगर यह पता किया जा सके तो हम मालूम कर सकेंगे और अपनी ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी को सुरक्षित रख सकेंगे। क्या इस के लिए सरकार कदम उठाएगी?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, as I have already mentioned that it is true that, from time to time, these types of reports are appearing in various journals, scientific journals, technical journals and those are being reproduced in Indian newspapers also. For instance, in *The Times of India* dated October 23, 2006, they reproduced certain such reports, and that is why, it was taken up! Further arrangements have been made, as I mentioned in the context of my reply, a mechanism of joint expert groups has been set up which will not only share the hydrological data during the flood season, but also discuss cooperation on emergency management and other matters. These are the trans-border rivers. We are the lower riparian countries. The types of problems, which arise from time to time of the over-utilisation of the water at the upper riparian, may cause problems to the lower riparian States. Keeping that in view, these expert groups have been set up and they will exchange information.

As the hon. Member very rightly mentioned—we discussed it also that at one point of time, there was a landslide, and, an artificial lake was created at Parichu river just above Himachal—had it burst, then it would have caused a serious damage to the lower part of our country. We took it up with the Chinese side and they extended cooperation. A latest report has been available to us with the cooperation of both the sides, and, now with respect to the water, which was accumulated by the creation of an artificial lake, through the landslide, the lower base has been washed out. The seepage of water has taken place not in one go but gradually and that danger has been averted. Therefore, these types of institutional arrangements are there.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी : सर, आज एक्सपर्ट्स का यह मानना है कि आने वाले जमाने में जो युद्ध होंगे, वे जमीन को लेकर नहीं, पानी को लेकर होंगे और हमें ऐसा लगता है कि चीन ने आने वाले वक्त की तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। जो खतरा आज ब्रह्मपुत्र के लिए है, कल वह सिंधु रिवर के लिए भी हो सकता है, कैलाश मानसरोवर के सवाल को लेकर। अहलुवालिया जी ने बड़े विस्तार के साथ पूछा था, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि हमें मंत्री जी से जवाब नहीं मिला। मंत्री जी बार – बार यह बता रहे हैं कि उनके Foreign Ministry के spokesperson ने क्या कहा, उनके ambassador ने क्या कहा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार ने साइटिफिक नजरिए से और डिफेंस के नजरिए से भी क्या अध्ययन किया है और उस अध्ययन के नतीजे में हमारी अपनी रिपोर्ट क्या है कि क्या तैयारियां वहां कर रहे हैं, क्या यह सच है कि वहां जमीन एक्वायर की गई है और यह भी सच है कि वहां डैम बनाने की तैयारियां हो रही हैं और उस पर काम शुरू हो चुका है? इस प्र हमारी अपनी जो फीडबैक है, उससे आप हाउस को अवगत कराइए, क्योंकि यह बहुत ही खतरनाक बात है। सिर्फ आसाम के लिए नहीं, बल्कि इससे पूरे रीजन की इकोलॉजी में बदलाव हो जाएगा, इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा।

श्री शबाद صدیقی : سر، آج ایکسپٹ کا یہ ماننا ہے کہ آنے والے زمانے میں جویدھ ہوں گے، وہ زمین کو لے کر نہیں، پانی کو لے کر ہوں گے اور ہمیں ایسا لگتا ہے کہ چین نے آنے والے وقت کی تیاری شروع کر دی ہے۔ جو خطرہ آج برہم پتر کے لئے ہے، کل وہ سندھو ریلور کے لئے بھی ہو سکتا ہے، کیلاش مانسروور کے سوال کو لے کر۔ اہلووالیہ جی نے بڑے وستار کے ساتھ پوچھا تھا، لیکن مجھے لگتا ہے کہ ہمیں منتری جی سے جواب نہیں ملا۔ منتری جی بار بار یہ بتا رہے ہیں کہ ان کے فورن منسٹری کے اسپوکس پرسن نے کیا کہا، ان کے ایمبیسٹر نے کیا کہا۔ میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہماری سرکار نے سائنٹفک نظریے سے اور ڈفینس کے نظریے سے بھی کیا ادھین کیا ہے اور اس ادھین کے نتیجے میں ہماری اپنی رپورٹ کیا ہے اور کیا تیاریاں وہاں کر رہے ہیں؟ کیا یہ سچ ہے کہ وہاں زمین ایکوائٹر کی گئی ہے اور کیا یہ بھی سچ ہے کہ وہاں ڈیم بنانے کی تیاریاں ہو رہی ہیں اور اس پر کام شروع ہو چکا ہے؟ اس پر ہماری اپنی جو فیڈ بیک ہے، اس سے آپ ہاؤس کو اوگت کرائیے، کیوں کہ یہ بہت ہی خطرناک بات ہے۔ صرآسام کے لئے نہیں، بلکہ اس سے پورے ریجن کے اکالوجی میں بدلاؤ ہو جائے گا، اس لئے میں یہ جاننا چاہوں گا۔

†[]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I share the anxiety of hon. Member that if these projects fructify, surely, it would have its implications and repercussions in the lower riparian States including not only India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar but also a host of countries. As Mr. Ahluwalia very correctly pointed out, the entire river system which goes to the countries like Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar starting from Mekong, Indus, Brahmaputra, Satluj, a series of rivers, are emanating from the area of a radius of hundred kilometres. Therefore, we have to take it up with the Government concerned as there is a set procedure. The information, which we have at our disposal from various sources, is that there are certain ideas somebody is conceptualising but the actual construction work and other things have not yet started, and, that is why we have to set up this mechanism.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has told us that the President of China and the Ambassador has said that there is no such programme. It is reassuring. However, it is a matter of concern that such proposals are on the anvil. They may take some time to be materialised. We have to be very cautious. As we went into a comprehensive Water Treaty with Pakistan, that is, Indus Water Treaty—I am not going into the merits of it, there are some deficiencies—in the same way, while we are negotiating our border with China, which I hope is going to progress more rapidly, would it not be possible to negotiate a river water treaty with China also so that we are able to safeguard our future also for the next twenty or thirty years?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, keeping that in view that we shall have to manage the water resources in a more comprehensive manner, we have taken it up with the concerned Ministry of Water Resources and the Water Commission. But, unfortunately, we are told—but it is not being backed by scientific and systematic studies yet—that the water which is available to Brahmaputra, nearly 60 to 70 per cent of that water, is coming through monsoon in the lower region and in upper it is 30 to 40 per cent from the glacier though the length of Brahmaputra in Tibet is almost more than 60 per cent of the total length. But the actual volume of water which accumulates in the river system of Brahmaputra, it is substantially coming from the monsoon waters in the lower region. But, as I mentioned earlier, it is to be yet established through scientific studies over a period of time and that is why we have

suggested to the Water Commission to establish certain stations there. On the Chinese side, three stations have been established. From our side, we are going to undertake certain study to establish it. Up to now, we have a Memorandum of Understanding with China; we do not have any treaty. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with China on the river Sutlej where we are carrying this information. On the river Brahmaputra, we are exchanging the information, hydrological data, which we are using during the flood times and it is effectively helping us to mitigate the effects of flood. Therefore, this exercise is a continuing one and it will be expanded further as and when necessary.

DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have the problem of glacier recession which is happening and that is going to affect the flow characteristic of the river Brahmaputra. There is also going to be ups and downs in the quantum of flow of Brahmaputra which is going to change the recession of glaciers considerably. Then, we have this trans-border issue whether there could be tapping of water from Brahmaputra by neighbouring countries. Do we have a comprehensive approach to deal with it in terms of monitoring the flow characteristics of such river systems which feed the Indian landmass? Secondly, do we have necessary model to predict what is caused by the nature, and what is not caused by the nature? Are we able to effectively do it currently, and when are we likely to do it if it is not being done currently?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in fact, keeping that in view, we have suggested the establishment of certain stations to study the data. Till today, from our side, we don't have scientific data to analyse and to arrive at a conclusion. In respect of sharing of water by the trans-border international river system, there is a set procedure and as per the set procedure whenever the issue comes, we take it up at the diplomatic level and with the concerned Ministries. For instance, there is a Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed by the Water Resources Ministries of India and China. They are exchanging these information. But from our side for independent study, we have not yet been able to set up the institutional arrangement, but we are going to set it up.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, since Tibet affects so many countries, is there any thinking that we could invite these countries and a unified policy could be worked out, in case China changes its policies?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is a suggestion for action.

श्री अमर सिंह : सर, यह पानी का विवाद सिर्फ ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी तक ही सीमित नहीं है, चीन सतलुज नदी से जुड़े हमारे समझौते का भी खुला उल्लंघन कर चुका है। समझौते के मुताबिक उसे नदी के चीनी प्रवाह क्षेत्र या आसपास के चीनी इलाके में अगर जल स्तर बढ़ता है, वॉटर लैवल बढ़ता है, तो उसकी सूचना भारत को देनी थी। लेकिन 2005 में पारिछू झील के बढ़ते जलस्तर की सूचना चीन ने हमें नहीं दी, जिस कारण हिमाचल प्रदेश में बाढ़ की नौबत आ गई। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे कि क्या सरकार ने इस मुद्दे पर चीनी अधिकारियों से बात की और यदि की तो उसकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया थी?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already stated that there is a regular Memorandum of Understanding about sharing of data in respect of the Sutlej river and the hon. Member has also mentioned it. And, in respect of a sudden flash flood caused by Parichu, it was an accidental landslide which created the artificial lake, and we were always apprehending about the burst of lakes. Therefore, with the cooperation of both sides, arrangements were made to seepage the water gradually so that there is no flash flood. So, that crisis has been avoided.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Sir, already one part of my question has been covered. But, Sir, through you, I want to tell that river Brahmaputra is the second biggest and a very important river of our country. It comes from Tibet and flows up to Bay of Bengal, through India and Bangladesh. I want to know what is the total length of the river and what is our proportion. Secondly, there are so many rivers called trans-borders rivers, covering two or three countries. So many rivers are there in North Bengal. I want to know, through you, what is the comprehensive policy of the Government for these rivers for the development of our country.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far the length of river Brahmaputra is concerned, it is 2,880 kilometres. About two-thirds of it flows through the Tibet region; about 370 kilometres in Bangladesh and the rest is with India. So far the river system on the Eastern side is concerned—on the Western side, it is Indus and Sutlej—apart from Brahmaputra, there is Lohit river. There is Subansiri. Of course, it originates from our side. But, Lohit and Brahmaputra rivers are there.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Foreign Minister that this whole issue of water qua China has three elements—strategic security, ecological issues and water management. What I have heard from the hon. Minister's reply is that only some monitoring stations are sought to be there and some mechanisms are sought to be developed. With a very wide experience, the hon. Foreign Minister would certainly be knowing that China's one attribute is well-known, namely, whatever they do, they do with great aggression, whether economic pursuit or water management or whatsoever. In that light, the time has come for synergy in our Government itself with security, with water management and ecological issue. Has the Government of India done some homework in that regard with a proper institutional mechanism to respond to these urgencies?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is not a question of merely setting-up some institutions. The objective of setting-up the institutions to collect data, the scientific analysis of the data, its assimilations will help us to work out a comprehensive policy. There is no doubt in the fact that China has made adequate progress in this respect by their own sustained efforts; and we shall have to do that.

महानगरों में सीवर और जल निकासी की समस्याएं

*122. श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

- (क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के कई महानगरों में बरसात के मौसम में सीवर और जल निकासी की समस्याएं पैदा हो जाती हैं और यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;
- (ख) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान सीवरों की सफाई के लिए कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई और इसमें से महानगरों के लिए कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई ; और
- (ग) देश में ऐसे कितने महानगर हैं जहां इस तरह की समस्या है और इससे अब तक कितना नुकसान हुआ है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्री एस. जयपाल रेड्डी) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।